



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 12/16/2008

GAIN Report Number: GM8054

Germany

Pest/Disease Occurrences

AI in Turkey Flocks in Northern Germany - Low-Path H5N3

2008

Approved by:

Bobby Richey, Jr.
US Embassy

Prepared by:

Dietmar Achilles

Report Highlights:

An outbreak of low-path AI (H5N3) has been reported for the district of Cloppenburg in Northern Germany in mid-December. Fourteen turkey flocks have been tested positive and about 200,000 birds had to be destroyed. About one third of the German turkey production comes from the district of Cloppenburg. Market observers do not expect a significant impact on the German turkey meat market.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Berlin [GM1]
[GM]

AI – Fourteen New Cases of Low-path AI Confirmed in Northern Germany

Since Dec. 11, fourteen cases of low-path AI (H5N3) have been confirmed exclusively in turkey stocks in the Cloppenburg region in Lower Saxony – Northern Germany. The local authorities are systematically testing all the poultry flocks for AI infection. The veterinarians report that the H5N3 is extremely difficult to identify. It can happen that some of the flocks had already been infected for a longer period without noticing it. The fast speed of detection of the past six days is the result of fast inspection work and does not necessarily mean that the disease is spreading quickly.

The authorities are in the process of destroying about 200,000 birds. This represents about seven percent of the turkey production of the district of Cloppenburg. Cloppenburg itself is the main center of turkey production in Germany accounting for about 30 percent.

Since the birds are quite heavy but not very fat the incineration causes a problem. It is likely that part of the dead birds have to be stored on the farm and sufficiently covered with corn silage for three weeks before they can be finally destroyed.

The parishes of Boesel, Garrel and Frieseute within the district of Cloppenburg have been declared as a quarantine zone. All poultry stocks within this area were now under official observation. Veterinarians are continuing their inspection of the poultry stocks inside the exclusion zones. The poultry trade at the same time extended its own examination program. In addition to the inspection program the Cloppenburg district banned any new build up of poultry flocks during the period of quarantine of 21 days after the last detection and finish of the disinfection work.

The AI infection has not yet been transferred over to other poultry although this region is also a major chicken producer. For the moment market observers do not expect significant impact on the turkey market since it is very well supplied.

Report		Title	Date released
GM8046	Germany	AI Update: Suspect Case in Saxony	10/09/2008
GM7060	Germany	AI update: Two more cases on small non-commercial poultry operations	12/31/2007
GM7059	Germany	AI update: New case on non-commercial poultry operation	12/19/2007
GM7055	Germany	AI update	12/12/2007
GM7040	Germany	AI: Outbreak in Commercial Duck Farm	08/27/2007
GM7030	Germany	AI update: Total Number Rises to 240 Wild Birds, One Goose on Backyard Farm	07/13/2007
GM7025	Germany	AI Re-Appears in Wild Birds	06/25/2007
GM6015	Germany	AI confirmed in a Commercial Poultry Farm - Consumer Reaction Limited	04/07/2006
GM6011	Germany	AI Update: AI confirmed in cats and suspected in a beech marten	03/10/2006
GM6008	Germany	AI update: 127 cases in wild birds none in domestic poultry	03/02/2006
GM6007	Germany	AI among wild birds reaches German mainland	02/21/2006
GM6005	Germany	AI Confirmed in Two Dead Swans in Northern Germany	02/16/2006
GM5042	Germany	Avian Influenza Update: Free Range Chicken Allowed Outside Again	12/19/2005
GM5035	Germany	AI-Threat: German Poultry Must Stay Inside - But Only in Certain Regions	09/12/2005